**F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

**Dr. Valerie J. Brady**, a Senior Research Program Manager at the University of Minnesota Duluth’s Natural Resources Research Institute, has been leading research on aquatic invertebrates, food webs, and invasive species since her dissertation research on zebra mussel effects on wetland food webs in Lake Huron coastal wetlands in the mid-1990's. Recently she has coordinated large research and monitoring programs across the coastlines of the Great Lakes assessing the health of the Great Lakes coastal zones and wetlands. She has a current MAISRC grant investigating spiny water flea entanglement on fishing gear. She has successfully managed numerous federal and state grants collectively worth over $3M.

**Ms. Holly Wellard Kelly** of UMD NRRI has 15 years of experience in aquatic ecology, including identifying aquatic invertebrates, zooplankton, and algae to monitor aquatic ecosystem health. Recently, she led the effort to refine the experimental design of St. Louis County and MAISRC projects investigating spiny water flea entanglement of fishing gear, including writing the methods documents for those projects. She also has experience managing and training technicians, analyzing data, and writing reports and publications.

**Mr. Josh D. Dumke** is a Senior Research Scientist at UMD NRRI. Mr. Dumke has over 10 years of experience in aquatic ecology, fisheries, and performing field collection, as well as 5 years’ experience coordinating and supervising technicians working on large aquatic projects. Relevant experience includes fish and invertebrate field collection and identification, safe boating practices on large lakes (including the Great Lakes), management and training of field staff, data analysis, writing SOP’s and technical reports, and boat/equipment decontamination procedures to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species during research endeavors.

The **Natural Resources Research Institute** (NRRI) is a part of the University of Minnesota Duluth. The Microscopy Laboratory, co-directed by Dr. Valerie Brady, is a 2,500 square foot facility within NRRI. Laboratory staff include aquatic macroinvertebrate, algae, and diatom taxonomists and fisheries ecologists. Staff are experienced at assessing organism assemblages from a variety of aquatic habitats, evaluating aquatic habitat conditions, and establishing biological indicators of the health of fish, amphibian, macroinvertebrate, diatom and periphytic communities. Equipment includes a variety of high quality research-grade microscopes, some with digital imaging capabilities for training, archiving images, and estimating sample biomass. NRRI field sampling equipment includes a fleet of five open water sampling vessels and two shallow water, flat bottom water craft; a variety of devices for sampling invertebrates, water quality and benthic substrates; water quality probes and meters; shallow-water electrofishing equipment; and passive fish collection equipment (Fyke trap nets, purse and standard seine nets). NRRI owns a high-pressure hot water washing unit for gear decontamination along with a rubber containment mat large enough to contain the wash water from any of our boats and trailers.

The **University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD)** is a comprehensive four-year plus graduate teaching and research university located in Duluth, MN, St. Louis County. The university's sponsored programs administration office oversees extramural funding and allows the university to successfully manage many federal and state grants, including all reporting and tracking. NRRI has dedicated accounting staff who assist researchers with tracking spending on grants and ensuring that spending follows specifications in grant budgets and timelines.